THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 22d Day of *May* 1777.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.

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THE PRINCIPAL

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SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 22d Day of *May* 1777, and concluded the 2d *June*, said year.

I.

The King's Commission to GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 22. 1777.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great

Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei, Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtre pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem nos conſiderantes, quod generalis eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigeſimum ſecundum diem Maii inſtantis convenire ordinatus fuit; noſque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem generalis eccleſiæ conventus, die ſtatuto debito obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; noſque abunde ſatisfacti de fidelitate et ſufficientia fideliſſimi et dilectiſſimi noſtri conſanguinei,* Georgii Comitis de Dalhouſie, *quod ad ſummum munus poſtea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit qualificatus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, ſicuti nos, tenore præſentium, nominamus, conſtituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhouſie, *ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium ad effectum poſtea mentionatum dando et concedendo illi pleniſſimam noſtram poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantum, ſacram noſtram perſonam et authoritatem regalem repreſentandi, necnon preſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, et locum noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et locum Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in omnibus reſpectibus, quam quilibet alius ejuſdem ſummi muneris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi nos ipſi perſonaliter preſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula ab antedicto* Georgio Comite de Dalhouſie, *in hac noſtra commiſſione proſequenda legitime fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri ſumus. Omnibus et ſingulis inſuper antedictæ eccleſiæ et conventus paſtoribus, et preſbyteriis, cæteriſque quibuſcunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis noſtris, quibuſcunque cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhouſie, *tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum revereantur, agnoſcant, et dict. ipſius*

audientes

audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo secundo die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem, utend. ordinat. præsentibus appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, vigesimo nono die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo septuagesimo septimo, regnique nostri anno decimo septimo. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, We greet you well. The invariable attention which you have shewn to the cause of religion and virtue, which we so earnestly wish to support, the constant proofs you have given of your duty, loyalty, and affection to our person and government, and your desire to promote the happiness and welfare of our people by the discouragement of vice and immorality, afford us great satisfaction. Your zealous endeavours therefore in the laudable objects for which you are assembled will ever meet with our approbation; and it is very pleasing to us, to assure you of our resolution to support the Church of Scotland, in all its rights and privileges, as by law established.

We have appointed our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin, George Earl of Dalhousie, to represent our royal person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his

loyalty, integrity, and zeal for our ſervice, as well as of his particular affection to the Church of Scotland; and we are perſuaded, that this choice will be agreeable to you.

The experience we have had of the prudence, candour, and moderation, which have prevailed in your deliberations, makes it unneceſſary for us to recommend to you to avoid all contention, and unedifying debates: And, convinced as we are of your ardent deſire to promote the happineſs of our Government, and the true intereſts of the Church whereof you are members, we are perſuaded you will exert your utmoſt endeavours in the ſuppreſſing of every tendency to licentiouſneſs and immorality, and in the encouragement of every Chriſtian virtue, on which the wholeſome laws of our happy conſtitution, the purity of our religion, and the general peace and happineſs of ſociety are founded. And we have no doubt, but, with an adherence to theſe principles, the preſent meeting will be concluded with the ſame unanimity, harmony, and brotherly affection, which have ſo often diſtinguiſhed your General Aſſemblies. And ſo we bid you heartily farewel.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 29th day of April 1777, in the ſeventeenth year of our reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

(Signed) SUFFOLK.

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met together in the national Assembly, have, with profound respect, and with the warmest gratitude, received the most gracious letter with which you have been pleased to honour us.

The favourable sentiments which your Majesty entertains of our unshaken loyalty and affection to your person and government, your persuasion that we will constantly endeavour, by the discouragement of vice and immorality, to promote the happiness and welfare of your people, and those renewed assurances of your resolution to support the Church of Scotland in the enjoyment of every legal right and privilege, afford us the highest satisfaction, and at the same time encourage us, by a faithful discharge of our duty, to deserve the further confidence of a Sovereign, whose approbation, next to that of God himself, we desire and esteem.

We beg leave to express our humble thanks to your Majesty for that new proof of your attention to the interests of religion and virtue, which appears in the royal donation of One thousand pounds again bestowed for the very important purpose of promoting religious knowledge in the less civilized parts of this country. It is our duty, and it shall be our endeavour, to lay out your Majesty's royal donation with the utmost care and strictest attention; for we are fully persuaded, that loyalty to your Majesty, affection to your person and government, and an attachment to our happy constitution, will naturally accompany the knowledge and belief of our most holy religion.

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The knowledge we have of that integrity and zeal for your Majeſty's ſervice, of that exemplary regard for religion, of that particular affection to the Church of Scotland, which diſtinguiſh the character of the Right Honourable the Earl of Dalhouſie, together with his known ability to diſcharge the moſt important office, lead us to conſider your Majeſty's nomination of that nobleman, to repreſent your royal perſon in this Aſſembly, as an additional mark of royal favour conferred upon the Church.

Permit us to aſſure your Majeſty that we, in this Aſſembly, animated by an ardent deſire to promote the glory of God, the happineſs of your Majeſty's government, and the true intereſts of the Church of which we are members, will, in all our deliberations, endeavour to diſplay that prudence, candour, moderation, and brotherly love, which in former Aſſemblies have obtained your royal approbation. To ſuppreſs every tendency to licentiouſneſs and immorality, to encourage the practice of every Chriſtian virtue, by ſuch means as are in our power, we acknowledge to be our duty; and by the grace of God, we ſhall proſecute thoſe important purpoſes with that zeal and attention, which may be expected from perſons perſuaded as we are, that, on the practice of pure religion and virtue, not only the eſtabliſhment of our happy conſtitution, and the peace and welfare of ſociety, but alſo our own comfort through time and eternity entirely depend.

That Almighty God may protect your perſon, prolong your days, eſtabliſh your throne in righteouſneſs, and beſtow upon you that ſupreme felicity, which a good King muſt enjoy, who is conſcious that, by a legal and mild adminiſtration, he makes a great kingdom happy; that the Divine favour may ever attend our moſt gracious Queen, your royal conſort, and the happy mother of your royal progeny; that the Father of mercies may bleſs his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales; and that he (trained up with all the advantages of a father's example) may imbibe early impreſſions of religion, juſt ſentiments of honour and virtue, and a due regard to the laws and conſtitution of Great Britain; that He, from whom deſcendeth every good and perfect gift, may pour down

down his richeſt bleſſings on all the Royal Family; and that, after reigning long with wiſdom and felicity, over a free, a loyal, and an happy people, you may receive the recompence of an heavenly Crown, be happy in the preſence of the King of Kings, and bleſſed in the full enjoyment of his favour through all eternity, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal Subjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, May 24. 1777.

JAMES BROWN, *Moderator.*

IV.

The General Aſſembly's Addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of affairs in North America.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE your Majeſty's moſt loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met together in a national Aſſembly, conſider it as our duty at this intereſting juncture, to approach your throne, in order to aſſure your Majeſty, that our attachment to your perſon and government, and the zeal of the people under our care for the conſtitution and rights of Great Britain continue firm and unſhaken.

Senſible of our own felicity under the reign of a prince, who has been the faithful guardian of thoſe laws and liberties, which the illuſtrious Houſe of Hanover was called to ſecure and maintain, we obſerved with deep concern the firſt appearances of a turbulent and ungovernable ſpirit, among the people of North America. We have contemplated its alarming progreſs with aſtoniſhment, and beheld fellow ſubjects who enjoyed in common with us the bleſſings of your Majeſty's mild adminiſtration, take arms in oppoſition to your juſt authority, and diſclaim the ſupremacy of the Britiſh Legiſlature, reject with diſdain the means of conciliation, generouſly held out to them by your Majeſty, and labour to erect their unlawful confederacies into independent ſtates.

With reverence and gratitude to Divine Providence, we offer our congratulations to your Majeſty on the ſucceſs, which has attended the fleets and armies, which you have been conſtrained to employ, in order to oppoſe the violence of rebellious ſubjects, and reclaim them to a ſenſe of their duty. While we truſt that your Majeſty's councils will be conducted with wiſdom, and your troops continue to act with valour, we regard it as our immediate duty, in the preſent ſituation of public affairs, to increaſe our diligence in diſcharging the functions of our ſacred office, that we may not only confirm the people under our care, in ſentiments of loyalty to their ſovereign, and attachment to the Britiſh conſtitution, but may impreſs all ranks of men with a deep ſenſe of their manifold tranſgreſſions, and incite them to ſuch reformation in their hearts and lives, as will avert from our country thoſe judgments which our iniquities juſtly deſerve.

That the Lord of Hoſts, in whoſe hand is power and might, may go forth with the fleets and armies of our country; that he who ſtilleth the tumults of the people and ruleth the ſpirit of man, may, in his good time, turn the hearts of the children unto their fathers, that the deſtroying ſword may return into his ſcabbard, and be at reſt; that the union between Great Britain and her Colonies, may be ſpeedily re-eſtabliſhed on terms ſo juſt and equitable, that both may long rejoice under the govern-

ment

ment of your Majesty, as their common parent and benefactor, are the daily and fervent prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal Subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by
JAMES BROWN, *Moderator*.

EDINBURGH, May 26. 1777.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Rev. Mr James Brown one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the ministers members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr James Smail at Dornock, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr John M'Kell at Durisdeir, Mr John Williamson at Tinwall, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr Robert Callendar at Kirkmaden, Mr Duncan M'Myne at Dalmellington, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr David M'Lellan at Beith, Mr William Taylor at Paisley, Mr Laurence Wells at Shotts, Mr William Miller at Crawfurd-

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john, Mr Joſeph Hodgſon at Carmunnock, Mr James Carrick at New Kilpatrick, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothſay, Mr Archibald Campbell at Inverary, Mr Daniel Hyndman at South Knapdale, Mr Archibald M'Arthur at Kilninian, Mr John Robertſon at Little Dunkeld, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr James Campbell at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Brown at Tulliallan, Mr Robert Rolland at Culroſs, Mr Thomas Webſter at Kinghorn, Mr Thomas Spankie at Falkland, Mr William Pairman at Ely, Mr John Halyburton at Ketins, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, Dr James Blenſhall at Dundee, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, Mr James Forſyth at Belhelvie, Mr William Shand at Lumfannan, Mr William Leſlie at Auchindore, Mr William Paterſon at Logie, Mr John Bonyman at Premnay, Mr Hugh Taylor at New Deer, Mr James Lautie at Fordyce, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr James Ogilvy at Rothes, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Kirkmichael, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kirkhill, Mr Alexander Wood at Roſmarkie, Mr George Douglas at Tain, Mr John Fraſer at Kilmorack, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr Donald Nicolſon at Strath, Mr James Wilſon at Lochs, Mr Edmund M'Queen at Barra, Mr Donald M'Lennan at Kintail, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr John Thomſon at Duirneſs, Mr Alexander Nicolſon at Thurſo, Mr Thomas Trail at Kirkwall and St Olay, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews and Deerneſs, Mr Francis Liddel at Orphir, Mr David M'Robert at Neſting, Mr James Hogg at Linlithgow, Mr John Thomſon at Walſton, Mr Alexander Adams at Traquair, Mr James Steel at Cockpen, Mr Henry Sangſter at Humbie, Mr John Ewin at Whittingham, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunſe, Mr George Home at Ayton, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelſo, Mr Robert Muirhead at South Dean, Mr Robert Dawſon at Stow, and Mr Thomas Robertſon at Selkirk, Miniſters; Bailie William Tod Edinburgh, Robert Irvine of Woodhall, Eſq; Alexander Ferguſon of Craigdaroch, Eſq; Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Miller advocate, Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen, Eſq; Profeſſor John Hill Edinburgh, William Wallace of Sauchrie,

Sauchrie, Esq; Professor Dugald Stewart, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Professor John Anderson, Professor Baillie, Sir James Colquhoun, Bart. Mr James Colquhoun, advocate, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; Mr Solicitor General, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, Professor Williamson, Mr Allan M'Dougal writer, Professor Adam Ferguson, Mr Neil Ferguson advocate, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, Lord Alva, Bailie James Gentle, Dr John Steedman, Mr Andrew M'Cara, Mr William Chalmers writer, Commissary Balfour, Mr Walter Cossar, Mr Alexander Hart clerk of Justiciary, Mr John Scott advocate, Captain Robert Moodie, Mr Cunningham of Hyndhope, Lieutenant John Grant, Mr Leith of Glenkindie, Professor Thomas Gordon, Mr John Taylor Writer, Mr John Robertson writer, the Hon. Mr Baron Gordon, Mr Isaac Grant writer, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Ludovic Grant, jun. writer, Bailie John Lothian, Mr William Dunbar writer, Mr Simon Fraser advocate, Bailie John Walker, Lord Ankerville, Mr Chalmers of Larbert, Sir John Gordon, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer, Mr Wilkie of Rathobyres, Mr William Robertson advocate, George Buchan of Kello, Esq; Mr William M'Donald writer, Mr John Mossman merchant, Mr John Russel, jun. writer, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr Græme of Græmshall, Mr George Sinclair writer, Mr George Wallace advocate, Bailie Walter Hamilton, Mr John Belsches jun. advocate, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, John Hume, Esq; Mr John Dickson advocate, the Lord Chief Baron, Alexander Stevenson of Smithfield, Esq; the Lord President, Mr Brown of Coalston, Mr Kinloch of Gilmerton, Mr Dalrymple of North Berwick, Dr Finlay of Drummore, Mr George Buchan-Hepburn advocate, Mr Matthew Sandilands writer, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, the Earl of Lauderdale, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; Mr Thomas Hog advocate, Mr Mark Pringle younger of Creighton, and Mr Richard Tod merchant Leith, Ruling Elders; added Mr William Porteous, and Dr Grieve Dalkeith; to be a committee of this Assembly, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true Religion, suppressing

Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the committee are impowered to chuſe their moderator and clerk, to appoint preachers and catechiſts to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be moſt proper, according to his Majeſty's deſign expreſſed in his warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small-Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the ſynods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such preachers and catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly obſerved by them. And the preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick; and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the preachers and catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid committee, to have a particular regard, in their proceedings to the regulations, agreed upon by the committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Aſſemblies; and to take care that preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are

hereby

hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Assembly do also impower the said committee, to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this commtttee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the commitee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly Isle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee, to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian

Knowledge

and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the ſynods and preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and impowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do, by theſe preſents, nominate and appoint Mr David Dalrymple advocate, procurator for the Church, to be receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the ſame as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the ſaid committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Excheqer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and theſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid committee a juſt account of the matter, againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the preſbyteries concerned, ſuch preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt with their commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to compleat the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot compleat it, they ſhall name a ſubcommittee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting,

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which are appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And impowered the committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering that there are diverse affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby *nominate*, *commissionate*, and *appoint* the Reverend Mr James Brown, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator, and from the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr James Smail at Dornock, ministers, and Sir James Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewis, ministers, and Bailie William Tod merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Matthew Cleghorn at Drysdale, Mr William Bryden at Dalton, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphry, ministers, and Robert Irvine, Esq; of Woodhall, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Robert Aitken at Morton, Mr John M'Kill at Durisdear, ministers, and Mr John Wilson of Townhead of Minyaive, ruling-elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Mr George Jardine, Professor of Logic in the college of Glasgow; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Andrew Hunter at Dumfries, Mr James

Kirkpatrick at Carlaverock, Mr John Williamſon at Tinwall, miniſters, and Mr Charles Barry in Nethertown, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr John Gilleſpie at Kells, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr Thomas Halyday at Kelton, miniſters, and Mr James Lennox, preſent Bailie of Kirkcudbright, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcudbright, Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the ſignet; from the preſbytery of Wigton, Mr Robert Hunter at Kirkowan, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, miniſters, and Alexander Miller, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wigton, Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen, Eſq; advocate; from the burgh of Whithorn, Profeſſor John Hill, Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Stranraer, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, miniſters, and Robert Cathcart of Genoch, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Ayr, Mr William Dalrmyple at Ayr, Mr John M'Dermit at Straton, Mr Duncan M'Myne at Dalmellentown, Mr John Dun at Auchinleck, Mr James Wright at Maybole, miniſters, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Eſq; and William Wallace of Sauchrie, Eſq; advocate, ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, Mr Dugald Stewart Profeſſor of Mathematics in the Univerſity of Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Irvine, Mr John Robertſon at Kilmarnock, Mr Henry Græme at Cumbrie, Mr David M'Lellan at Beith, miniſters, and the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewelton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Paiſley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr William Taylor at Paiſley, miniſters, and Mr Robert Paterſon, Sheriff-ſubſtitute of the ſhire of Renfrew, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Hamilton, Mr Robert Bell at Strathaven, Mr Lawrence Wells at Shotts, Mr Alexander Hutchiſon at Hamilton, miniſters, and Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lanark, Mr James Porteous at Wiſtown, Mr William Miller at Crawfordjohn, miniſters, and Mr Robert Wharrie ſurgeon in Leſmahego, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Sir James Stewart of Coltneſs, Bart.; from the preſbytery of Glaſgow, Mr John Hamilton at Cathcart, Mr William Porteous, and Mr Thomas Randal at Glaſgow, Mr Joſeph Hodgſon at Carmunnock, miniſters, John Corbet, Eſq; of Tollcroſs,

and

and Profeſſor John Anderſon in Glaſgow, ruling elders; from the Univerſity of Glaſgow, the Rev. Dr Baillie, Profeſſor of Theologie in the Univerſity of Glaſgow; from the preſbytery of Dunbarton, Mr James Addie at Kilmarnock, Mr Archibald Bruce at Fintry, Mr James Carrick at New-Kilpatrick, miniſters, and Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, ruling elder; from the the burgh of Dunbarton, James Colquhoun younger of Luſs, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Dunoon, Mr John Melvill at Dunoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rotheſay, miniſters, and John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rotheſay, Duncan M'Millan, Eſq; of Dunmore; from the burgh of Campbelton, Alexander Murray of Murrayfield, Eſq; Solicitor General for Scotland; from the preſbytery of Inverary, Mr Archibald Campbell at Inverary, Mr Daniel Hyndman at South-Knapdale, miniſters, Mr James Loch writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, the Rev. Dr James Williamſon Profeſſor of Mathematics in the Univerſity of Glaſgow; from the preſbytery of Mull, Mr Archibald M'Arthur at Kilninian, Mr Charles Stewart at Coll, miniſters, Allan M'Dougal, Eſq; younger of Gallanoch, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dunkeld, Mr James Gow at Cargill, Mr John Stewart at Weem, Mr Alexander Ogilvy at Clunie, and Mr John Robertſon at Little Dunkeld, miniſters, Mr Adam Fergusſon Profeſſor of Philoſophy at Edinburgh, and Mr Niel Fergusſon advocate, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of Perth, Mr David Bannerman at St Martins, Mr Henry Englis at Fortiveot, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, miniſters, Mr Alexander Belſches advocate, and Bailie John Caw merchant in Perth, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of Stirling, Mr Thomas Randall at Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, miniſters, and Lord Alva, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr James Campbell at Auchterarder, Mr William Thomſon at Monivaird, miniſters, and Bailie James Gentle brewer in Canongate of Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dunblane, Mr John Robertſon at Dunblane, Mr Robert Brown at Tillyallan, miniſters, and John Campbell, Eſq; of Lochend, ruling elder; from the preſbytery

ry of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Stark at Kinroſs, Mr Andrew Richardſon at Inverkeithing, Mr Robert Rolland at Culroſs, miniſters, and Dr John Steedman phyſician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline; from the burgh of Culroſs, Mr David Ireland town-clerk of Culroſs; from the burgh of Dyſart, Mr Andrew MacCara merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Pinkerton at Markinch, Mr John Mudie at Portmoack, Mr Thomas Webſter at Kinghorn, miniſters, and James Townſhend Oſwald, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Eſq; Solicitor of Exciſe; from the preſbytery of Cupar, Mr Charles Wilſon at Auchtermuchty, Mr Samuel Martin at Moniemeal, Mr Robert Arnot at Ceres, Mr Tomas Spankie at Falkland, miniſters, the Hon. Capt. Frederick Maitland, and Major John Melvil of Cairny, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of St Andrews, Mr John Nairn at Anſtruther-Eaſter, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr William Pairman at Ely, Mr James Forreſter at Anſtruther-Weſter, miniſters, Profeſſor George Hill at St Andrews, and Dr James Flint Profeſſor of Medicine there, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh; from the burgh of Crail, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate, one of the commiſſaries of Edinburgh; from the burgh of Kilrenny, Mr Walter Coſſar comptroller of Exciſe, Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Meigle, Mr David Thomſon at Airly, Mr James Ogilvy at Eaſſie, Mr John Halyburton at Ketens, miniſters, and Patrick Aliſon of Newhall, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Forfar, Dr John Ker at Forfar, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, miniſters, and William Adam, Eſq; younger of Maryburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dundee, Mr James Milne at Kinnaird, Dr James Blenſhall at Dundee, Mr John Gellatly at Tealing, miniſters, and Mr Andrew Pitcairn writer in Dundee, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberbrothick, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothick, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, miniſters, and the Hon. Mr Baron Maul, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothick, Mr Alexander Hart clerk of Juſticiary; from the preſbytery of Brechin, Mr

John

John Biſſet at Brechin, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, Mr Daniel Bryce at Logie-Port, miniſters, and Mr John Scott advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montroſe, Capt. Robert Mudie ſhipmaſter in Leith; from the burgh of Bervie, Mr Joſeph Gavin merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Aberdeen, Mr George Abercrombie in Aberdeen, Principal Campbell, Aberdeen, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Mr James Forſyth at Belhelvie, miniſters, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Eſq; and Mr Alexander Fullarton in Aberdeen, ruling elders; from the preſbytery of Kincardine-O'Niel, Mr John Ramſay at Strathain, Mr William Morrice at Kincardine-O'Niel, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, miniſters, and Lieutenant John Grant at Reppahie, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Alford, Mr James Douglas at Glenbucket, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, Mr William Leſlie at Auchindore, miniſters, and Alexander Leith of Glenkindie, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Ellon, Mr James Miln at Ellon, Mr William Paterſon at Logie, miniſters, and Profeſſor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Garioch, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leſlie, Mr Patrick Davidſon at Kemnay, Mr John Bonniman at Premnay, and Mr David Dalrymple advocate, Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnſton at Crimond, Mr John Lundie at Lonmay, Mr Hugh Taylor at New Deer, miniſters, and Mr John Taylor clerk to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Fordyce, Mr George Grant at Rathven, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, miniſters, and Mr John Robertſon writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairney, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, miniſters, and the Hon. Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberlour, Mr Thomas Johnſton at Boharm, Mr James Ogilvy at Rothes, miniſters, and Mr Iſaac Grant writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Abernethy, Mr William Gordon at Alvie, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Kirkmichael, miniſters, and Dr Gregory Grant phyſician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Elgin, Mr David Rentoul at Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, miniſters, and Mr Thomas Gordon writer in Edin-

burgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkellie, miniſters, and Mr James Fraſer merchant in Forres, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant jun. writer in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Walter Moriſon at Arderſier, miniſters, and Bailie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Nairn, Mr William Dunbar writer to the ſignet; from the preſbytery of Inverneſs, Mr James M'Intoſh at Moy, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kirkhill, miniſters, and Mr Simon Fraſer advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Chanonry, Mr James Munro at Cromarty, Mr Alexander Wood at Roſemarkie, miniſters, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Tain, Mr Patrick Grant at Nigg, Mr George Douglas at Tain, miniſters, and Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers, Eſq; of Larbert; from the preſbytery of Dingwall, Mr John Fraſer at Kilmarnock, Mr Roderick M'Kenzie at Contin, miniſters, and Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, Baronet; from the preſbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleſkine, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, miniſters, and Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Donald Nicolſon at Strath, miniſters, and James Wilkie of Rathobyres, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr James Wilſon at Lochs, miniſters, and Mr William Robertſon advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Uiſt, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uiſt, Mr Edmund M'Queen at Barra, miniſters, and George Buchan of Kello, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalſh, Mr Donald M'Lellan at Kintail, miniſters, and Mr William M'Donald clerk to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dornoch, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, miniſters, and Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dornoch, Andrew Hamilton of Spitlehaugh, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Tongue, Mr Alexander Falkoner at Eddrahilles, Mr John Thomſon at Duerneſs, miniſters,

niſters, Mr John Moſſman, preſent treaſurer of the city of Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Caithneſs, Mr Alexander Oliphant at Bower, Mr Alexander Nicolſon at Thurſo, miniſters; and Mr John Ruſſel, *jun.* writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Bailie Daniel Miller merchant in Canongate; from the preſbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews and Deerneſs, Mr Thomas Trail at Kirkwall and St Olay, miniſters, and Patrick Græme of Græmſhall, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Cairſtone, Mr George Low at Birſay and Harray, Mr Francis Liddel at Orphir, miniſters, and Mr George Sinclair writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchel at Tingwall, Mr David M'Robert at Neſting, miniſters, and Mr George Wallace advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Erſkine, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Scott at South Leith, Dr James M'Knight, Edinburgh, Mr James White at Liberton, Mr John Logan at South Leith, miniſters, the Hon. Charles Hope-Weir, Bailie Walter Hamilton, and Mr John Belſches, *jun.* advocate, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, and Mr Orlando Hart, firſt Trades Counſellor; from the Univerſity of Edinburgh, Principal Robertſon; from the church of Campvere, Mr James Yair, miniſter, and Mr John Home, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Linlithgow, Mr John Aitchiſon at Falkirk, Mr James Hogg at Linlithgow, Mr Archibald M'Auly at Queensferry, Mr Patrick Baillie at Borrowſtounneſs, miniſters, Mr Charles Addiſon merchant in Borrowſtounneſs, and Bailie William Napier in Linlithgow, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Robert Clark, Eſq; preſent Provoſt of Linlithgow; from the preſbytery of Biggar, Mr John M'Caul at Symington, Mr John Braidfoot at Dunſyre, Mr John Thomſon at Walſton, miniſters, and John Dickſon of Whitecaſtle, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Peebles, Mr John Baird at Stobo, Mr Alexander Adams at Traquair, miniſters, and the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Alexander Stevenſon, Eſq; Sheriff-depute of the county of Peebles; from the preſbytery of Dalkeith,

Dalkeith, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr Thomas M'Courty at Pennycuik, Mr James Steil at Cockpen, miniſters, and the Lord Preſident, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Haddington, Mr George Anderſon at Pencaitland, Mr Patrick Carfrae at Norham, Mr Henry Sangſter at Humbie, miniſters, and Charles Brown of Coalſton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr Francis Kinloch younger of Gilmerton; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Eſq; younger of North Berwick; from the preſbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Lundie at Oldhamſtocks, Mr John Ewan at Whittingham, miniſters, and Dr Robert Finlay of Drumore, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, George Buchan-Hepburn, of Smeaton, Eſq; advocate; from the preſbytery of Dunſe, Mr John Hume at Greenlaw, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunſe, miniſters, and Matthew Sandilands of Couſton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Churnſide, Mr James Williamſon at Eymouth, Mr George Home at Aiton, miniſters, and Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kelſo, Mr James Turnbull miniſter at Linton, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelſo, miniſters, and the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Cranſtoun at Ancrum, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr Robert Muirhead at South Dean, miniſters, and Mr John Laurie preacher of the goſpel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Right Hon. the Earl of Lauderdale; from the preſbytery of Lauder, Mr William Gullon at Legerwood, Mr Robert Dawſon at Stow, miniſters, and John Tait of Pirn, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Lauder, Thomas Hogg younger of Newliſton, Eſq; advocate; from the preſbytery of Selkirk, Mr Frederick M'Laggan at Melroſe, Mr Thomas Robertſon at Selkirk, miniſters, and Mark Pringle younger of Creighton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith, to be commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt

day

day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproven by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs

for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to ſynods and preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authoriſed by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the commiſſioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correſpondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged, to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſureable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid commiſſioners, particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the Genral Aſſembly prohibits the preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other preſbytery within twelves miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or

weeks

weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions, relative to the settlements of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any presbytery or synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting as has been sometimes the practice, but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission: And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.

Overture

VII.

Overture and Interim Act, concerning perſons going to be Licenſed or Ordained without the Bounds of this Church.

Edinburgh, 29th May 1777.

WHEREAS it is a matter of the greateſt importance to the intereſts of religion, to prevent perſons not duly qualified from becoming preachers and miniſters of the goſpel; and as it has often been complained of, that perſons, not qualified according to the acts of this Church, have retired out of its bounds, to places where they were not well known, and have obtained licenſe to preach, or been ordained miniſters of the goſpel: Therefore the General Aſſembly do hereby prohibit all perſons, educated or reſiding within the bounds of this Church, to go out of its bounds to obtain licenſes to preach; and prohibit all preachers, licenſed by this Church, from going without its bounds to obtain ordination, unleſs they are called to a particular congregation in another country: And enact, That licenſes obtained in that manner ſhall not be received, or have any effect in this Church; and ſuch preachers as contravene this act, ſhall forfeit the licenſe formerly given them, and be no longer intitled to the privileges which belong to a preacher of the goſpel in this Church.—The General Aſſembly do hereby retranſmit the above, as an overture, to the ſeveral preſbyteries, ſtrictly requiring ſuch of them as have hitherto been deficient, to ſend up their opinions thereupon to the next General Aſſembly; and do further ordain this overture, as an interim act, to have the force of a law till the next General Aſſembly.

Act

VIII.

Act anent the day of Meeting of the Synod of Fife.

Edinburgh, 2*d June* 1777.

THERE having been a miſtake in the 10th act of the laſt Aſſembly, reſpecting the day of the meeting of the Synod of Fife, the General Aſſembly do now ordain, That the meeting of the ſaid Synod, in the month of October, ſhall be on the ſecond Tueſday of that month yearly.

IX.

Renewal of the Appointment of Aſſembly 1763, reſpecting Collections.

Edinburgh, 2*d June* 1777.

THE General Aſſembly did agree to renew an appointment of the Aſſembly 1763, reſpecting collections made by act or recommendation of Aſſembly, and that the ſame ſhould be inſert with the Printed Acts of this Aſſembly; and accordingly the General Aſſembly do now appoint, That, in all future collections made by ſuch act and recommendation, the brethren or preſbyteries, when they remit the money collected, in obedience thereto, to the perſon or perſons named in the act for receiving the ſame, ſhall tranſmit at the ſame time, an exact account of the ſeveral ſums of money ſo remitted to

the clerks of Aſſembly, who ſhall keep a book for inrolling the ſaid remittances, that the Church may have thereby an opportunity of knowing the juſt amount of the ſeveral collections made in obedience to acts of Aſſemblies.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Chuch is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thurſday the 21ſt day of May, in the year 1778.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

Overture

XI.

Overture anent Licensing Probationers.

THE General Assembly taking into their serious consideration the danger that ariseth to this Church, and to the souls of people, by licensing any to preach the gospel who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and considering that the several acts made by former General Assemblies, lye so scattered in many separate articles, at great distances from one another, that the directions therein given, are in danger of being overlooked by presbyteries: Therefore the General Assembly, collecting what appears to them most material in former acts, ordain, That the following regulations shall be strictly observed by presbyteries in all time coming.

1*mo*, That no presbytery admit any person to probationary trials, but such as are found to be of good report, of sufficient learning, of sound principles, of a pious, sober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the government in church and state, and of whom they have sufficient ground to conceive that they shall be useful and edifying in the church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that, without respect of persons, such as are esteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, proud, worldly minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical godliness, be kept back from that sacred work.

2*do*, That none be admitted to trials in order to be licensed, but such as have produced to the professor of divinity at the time of their being enrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing that they have gone through a full course of philosophy at the college, and who have either given close attendance on the divinity-hall for the space of four years, from the time of their names being entered upon the roll of the

the preſbytery as ſtudents of divinity; or, if their circumſtances did not permit them to give cloſe attendance on the hall, have continued to proſecute the ſtudy of divinity for ſix years, and have in that time delivered the uſualnum ber of diſcourſes; provided alſo, that, at the time of their being admitted to trials, they are twenty-one years of age complete.

3*tio*, The General Aſſembly conſidering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this Church, by the unworthy behaviour of ſuch as follow the ſtudy of divinity, do earneſtly recommend to the preſbyteries, profeſſors of divinity, and miniſters and members of this Church, to keep a watchful eye on ſuch ſtudents, during the terms above ſpecified. And further, that when any ſtudent comes to attend the profeſſor of divinity in any univerſity, he ſhall produce to the profeſſor, and to the miniſter of the pariſh where he is to reſide, during the time of his attendance on the profeſſion, a teſtimonial from the miniſter of the pariſh from whence he comes; and when he leaves the profeſſion, he ſhall carry back teſtimonials from the miniſter of the pariſh, of his grave and ſuitable behaviour becoming his character; and from the profeſſor, teſtimonials certifying the ſame, and alſo his regular attendance on the diets of the profeſſion, and the time he has attended. And when any profeſſor of divinity ſhall think fit to recommend a ſtudent, in order to probationary trials, his teſtimonials ſhall certify his proficiency in his ſtudies and his moral character.

4*to*, The General Aſſembly do appoint and ordain, That no preſbytery admit any ſtudent to probationary trials, except ſuch as have reſided within their bounds for the ſpace of ſix months, or do produce to them ſufficient teſtimonials from the preſbyteries in whoſe bounds they have lived, or for the moſt part reſided, expreſſing, that it is the deſire of theſe preſbyteries that theſe ſtudents ſhould be entered upon trials. And ſuch ſtudents as come from abroad, ſhall produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the profeſſors under whom they ſtudied; and the time of their being abroad ſhall be accounted a part of the ſix years; but none of theſe ſtudents ſhall

be

be entered upon trials for the space of half a year after they come to Scotland.

5to, When any student is proposed to a presbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the proposal shall lye on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgment therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the said student's qualifications and behaviour; and the presbytery shall be alone when the proposal is made and judged on; and the General Assembly enjoins all students to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the ministers of the presbytery where they reside, and where they are to pass trials.

6to, When the Presbytery, after serious enquiry and mature deliberation, shall agree to take the proposed candidate on trials, they shall examine him strictly and privately, in order to enable them to judge whether he possesses the piety, knowledge, abilities, and other qualifications necessary for a preacher of the gospel.

7mo, The General Assembly appoints the same method to be observed, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any presbytery recommend a student to pass trials in another presbytery.

8vo, The General Assembly do also appoint and ordain, That the terms above specified being expired, and testimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the presbytery, before they prescribe any part of public trials, shall write letters to all the presbyteries within the bounds of the synod, acquainting them with their design, two months at least before sitting of the synod; and at the said next meeting of the synod, they shall also acquaint the synod thereof, and obtain their special advice and judgment in that particular; and that the members of the said presbytery and synod may be ripely advised thereanent, the General Assembly appoints the said letters to be duly and carefully transmitted to the several presbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the first diet of the synod, to lye on the table till the second or some subsequent diet, and then particular enquiry be made whether any person have any thing to object against the students being entered on trials for preaching the gospel. Provided

always, That in any part of this Church, when ſynods meet but once a year, a ſtudent may be propoſed to the ſynod, half a year ſooner than would have been competent, if the ſynod had met twice a year.

9*no*, The General Aſſembly recommends to preſbyteries, that before any ſtudent is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10th Aſſembly 1711, of ſuch as are to be licenſed, be read to them; and that the preſbytery take promiſe of them, that they will ſubſcribe to, and particularly obſerve the ſame, in caſe the preſbytery ſee cauſe to licenſe them; and that this promiſe be recorded in their books.

10*mo*, The General Aſſembly appoints the public probationary trials of ſtudents, who are to be licenſed probationers, to be the following, *viz.* 1. The catechetic trials to be renewed in preſence of the preſbytery, and that previouſly to all the other parts of public trials. 2. A homily in Engliſh on a Scripture text. 3. An exegeſis in Latin on a controverted head of Divinity, and ſuſtaining a theſis and diſpute thereon. 4. An exerciſe and addition. 5. A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6. A popular ſermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7. A trial on chronology and Church hiſtory, eſpecially the hiſtory of our own Church. *Laſtly*, A trial on their knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

11*mo*, The General Aſſembly, judging it fit that the ſame method ſhall be followed in all preſbyteries as to queſtions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licenſed; and that the ſaid probationers ſhould not only give ſufficient proof of their piety, literature, and other good qualifications for the ſacred miniſtry, but alſo come under the ſtricteſt engagements to adhere to, and maintain the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline, and government of this Church: Do therefore enact and appoint, That the queſtions appointed by act 10. 1711, be put to all ſuch as paſs trials; and likewiſe that they ſhall ſubſcribe the *Formula*, ſet down in the ſaid act, before they be licenſed to preach the goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibits the licenſing any perſon whatſomever, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*,

and

and discharge any presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12*mo*, When any presbytery, who, with the synod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a student on trials, shall receive a letter from any presbytery, shewing their dissatisfaction with that student, and giving relevant grounds for the same, which they offer to verify to the presbytery at their next meeting, the said student shall not be licensed until the matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints presbyteries, who shall receive such letters anent students from any other presbytery, to write a return with the first post after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

13*tio*, That the acts concerning Simony be read before licensing any probationer.

14*to*, For the better observation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the Professors of Divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their students in a public meeting annually, at such time, in the month of January, as to them seems most convenient. And all presbyteries and synods are peremptorily appointed to observe the same in all its parts: And it is strictly enjoined, that visitors of presbytery-books make strict enquiry how the several presbyteries do observe the same.

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INDEX OR ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the Year 1777, which are not printed at full Length.

May 22. 1777. *Seſſ.* 1*ſt.*

AFTER ſermon by the Rev. Dr John Ker miniſter of the goſpel at Forfar, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe, and after prayer by the ſaid Dr John Ker, Mr James Brown, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, was unanimouſly choſen Moderator, and, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The King's Commiſſion to the Right Hon. George Earl of Dalhouſie, to repreſent his Majeſty's royal perſon, read, and recorded.

The King's moſt gracious letter to the Aſſembly, read and recorded.

The Commiſſioner's ſpeech at opening this Aſſembly, and the Moderator's ſpeech in return thereto.

His Majeſty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered in to the Aſſembly by his Grace the Commiſſioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious letter.

A committee named for reviſing the commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from diets thereof; naming miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner; receiving in liſts of

the probationers in the ſeveral preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

May 23. 1777. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.

The committee for overtures and bills, and for reviſing commiſſions, appointed to meet this evening at their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1777. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

Upon a motion, the Aſſembly appointed a committee to draw up an addreſs to his Majeſty, on occaſion of the continuance of the unnatural and unjuſt revolt of his Majeſty's ſubjects in North America.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

Reſolve anent taking in cauſes.

The report of the committee for reviſing commiſſions, having paſſed the committee for overtures, the ſame called for, produced and read over.

The commiſſion from the borough of Kinghorn rejected, on account of there not being ten free days betwixt the reſolution to elect and the day of election.

The Aſſembly delayed the conſideration of the objection to the commiſſion from the borough of Dunbar till Mr Buchan-Hepburn, the member, ſhould be preſent.

The

The commiſſion from the preſbytery of Elgin ſuſtained as to the miniſters, but rejected as to the elder, on account of its not being atteſted.

The commiſſion from the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright rejected, on account of the ſame not being atteſted.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the committee named by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, conſider the ſtate of the public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

The committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the ſeveral members, any inſtructions given to them by their reſpective ſynods or preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Aſſembly; and to receive in and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and ſuperſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing or ſuppreſſing thereof, to meet on Monday at ten o'clock.

The committee for reviſing commiſſions, appointed to meet in the Aſſembly-houſe, a quarter before ſeven o'clock this evening; and the committee for bills to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, in their uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1777. *Seſſ.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The draught of an addreſs to his Majeſty, on the preſent ſituation of affairs in America, brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, untertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The books of the ſeveral ſynods being called for, but none of them being brought up to this Aſſembly, reſolved that the reaſons thereof be enquired into.

Upon

Upon a motion, the Aſſembly referred a petition for Mr Alexander Watt to the Procurator, to conſider the ſame, and report.

An appeal of Mr John Biſſet miniſter at Brichen, and Mr Charles Niſbet miniſter at Montroſe, alſo of Mr James Gillies preacher of the goſpel, from a ſentence of the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, refuſing to ſuſtain the ſaid Mr Gillies's licence, heard: The General Aſſembly, in reſpect the ſynod had acted irregularly, by taking in this cauſe when not properly before them, and giving judgment therein without calling Mr Gillies to be heard for his intereſt, reverſed the ſentence of the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, and affirmed the ſentence of the preſbytery of Brechin, ſuſtaining Mr Gillies's licence.

The committee on the window-tax continued, with the ſame powers as appointed by laſt and former Aſſemblies.

Reſolve anent cauſes.

The committee for bills and overtures appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, in their uſual places; and the committee for reviſing commiſſions, to meet half paſt nine in the morning.

Adjournment.

May 27. *Seſſ.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The Aſſembly having reſumed the conſideration of the objection to the commiſſion from the burgh of Dunbar, repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the commiſſion.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read.

Objections to the commiſſion from the burgh of Sanquhar, heard; ſuſtained the objection, and rejected the commiſſion.

The overtures from the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, the preſbytery of Cupar, and preſbytery of Biggar, were all read, and ordered to lye on the table.

The opinion of the Procurator on the petition for Mr Alexander Watt, given in, and read, and the ſame, together

together with all the petitions tranſmitted by the committee for bills, craving aid out of the public funds of the church, remitted to the committee on the public accounts.

The report of the committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

An appeal by the preſbytery of Edinburgh, from a ſentence of the ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale, relative to ſettling a miniſter in Lady Glenorchy's Chapel, called, and parties heard thereupon. The General Aſſembly, in reſpect of this long ſederunt, continued the cauſe till to-morrow.

The committe on public accounts, and for conſidering new applications for ſhares of the public money, appointed to meet to-morrow morning, half paſt nine, in the Society-hall.

The committees for reviſing the commiſſion-book, and for reviſing the Royal Bounty-record, to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, in the Society-hall.

A committee named to conſider the petition for Mr George M'Queen and others, relative to the Noriſton fund, and to report to the Aſſembly.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1777. *Seſſ.* 6.

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The procurator and agents accounts produced, and ordered to lye on the table.

The General Aſſemly reſumed the conſideration of the appeal by the preſbytery of Edinburgh, from the ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale, relative to Lady Glenorchy's Chapel; and after long reaſoning, the Aſſembly came to the following reſolution: The Aſſembly, waving the conſideration of the firſt part of the ſynod's ſentence, diſapproving of the Preſbytery's appointing Dr Webſter to introduce Mr Balfour to the Chapel, by preaching upon that occaſion; agreed, without a vote, to reverſe the ſecond part of the ſynod's ſentence, prohibiting all the miniſters and probationers within their bounds to officiate in ſaid Chapel, and diſcharging the miniſters of this

Church to employ any miniſter of the ſaid Chapel to officiate for them; and in caſe the matter ſhall again be brought before the preſbytery, the Aſſembly recommend it to them, to take proper care that the perſon to be admitted to the ſaid Chapel conform himſelf to the ſtandards of this Church.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjourned till to-morrow the cauſes appointed for this diet.

Reſolve anent taking in returns from the preſbyteries, relative to the ſix articles concerning the widows fund.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1777. *Seſſ. 7th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the petition of Mr George M'Queen and others, relative to the Noriſton fund, called for, given in, read, and approved of; and the General Aſſembly authoriſed the clerk to give the petitioners an extract thereof immediately, in order that the petitioners may be allowed to return to their reſpective abodes.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

A committee named to conſider the propoſed amendments to the overture, concerning the licenſing of probationers, with the overture itſelf, and to report; to meet half after ſeven this evening, in the Exchange Coffee-houſe.

The overture anent perſons going to be licenſed or ordained, without the bounds of this church, is retranſmitted to preſbyteries, with ſpecial injunctions from the Aſſembly about ſending returns thereto; and the Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid overture to be an *interim* act; to have the force of a law till the next General Aſſembly; *vide the ſaid overture ſo enacted among the printed acts.*

The committee appointed by former Aſſemblies to conſider the increaſe of Popery, renewed, and added thereto the Moderator, and Dr M'Night, and appointed Mr Alexander Belſches conveener.

The

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The petition for Mr Thomas Smith referred to the committee on the public accounts, to conſider and report.

The committee appointed by former Aſſemblies, to conſider the overture anent the pſalmody, to meet to-morrow, half after ten o'clock, in the Aſſembly-houſe.

A committee named to conſider a petition, &c. from the preſbytery of Perth, anent a divorce, &c. and to report their opinion thereupon, to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock in the Society-hall.

An appeal by Mr James Lawſon, ſtudent in divinity, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Auchterarder, refuſing to take Mr Lawſon on trials, in order to his being licenſed as a probationer for the miniſtry, heard. The Aſſembly reverſed the ſentence of the preſbytery of Auchterarder, and appointed the preſbytery to proceed to take Mr Lawſon on trials, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

A reference from the preſbytery of Cupar, relative to the receiving of Dr Young's licence, heard. The General Aſſembly remitted the affair to the preſbytery of Cupar, impowering them to receive Dr Young as a licentiate, upon his ſatisfying them in preaching before them, in undergoing catichetical trials, and in giving the uſual ſecurity, by ſubſcribing the Confeſſion of this church, and *Formula*.

Reſolve anent taking in a cauſe.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1777. *Seſſ.* 8*th*

Sederunt.

Upon a motion, the General Aſſembly, on account of the preſent ſituation of Mr Robert Fleming, Printer to the Church, unanimouſly agreed to join Mr James Dickſon bookſeller with him in that office.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the pſalmody called for, given in, and read: The committee continued, and Dr M'Knight added thereto.

The report of the committee upon the overture anent licenſing probationers, and the propoſed amendments, given in, and read, and ordered to lye on the table till to-morrow.

The

Church to employ any miniſter of the ſaid Chapel to officiate for them; and in caſe the matter ſhall again be brought before the preſbytery, the Aſſembly recommend it to them, to take proper care that the perſon to be admitted to the ſaid Chapel conform himſelf to the ſtandards of this Church.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjourned till to-morrow the cauſes appointed for this diet.

Reſolve anent taking in returns from the preſbyteries, relative to the ſix articles concerning the widows fund.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1777. *Seſſ.* 7*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the petition of Mr George M'Queen and others, relative to the Noriſton fund, called for, given in, read, and approved of; and the General Aſſembly authoriſed the clerk to give the petitioners an extract thereof immediately, in order that the petitioners may be allowed to return to their reſpective abodes.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

A committee named to conſider the propoſed amendments to the overture, concerning the licenſing of probationers, with the overture itſelf, and to report; to meet half after ſeven this evening, in the Exchange Coffee-houſe.

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Reſolve anent taking in a cauſe.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1777. *Seſſ.* 8*th*

Sederunt.

Upon a motion, the General Aſſembly, on account of the preſent ſituation of Mr Robert Fleming, Printer to the Church, unanimouſly agreed to join Mr James Dickſon bookſeller with him in that office.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the pſalmody called for, given in, and read: The committee continued, and Dr M'Knight added thereto.

The report of the committee upon the overture anent licenſing probationers, and the propoſed amendments, given in, and read, and ordered to lye on the table till to-morrow.

The

A report by the truſtees of the fund for miniſters widows, of the returns made by preſbyteries and univerſities, reſpecting the ſix articles tranſmitted to them by laſt Aſſembly, given in.—The General Aſſembly appointed a committee of their number to meet with the committee of the truſtees to take the above into conſideration, at ſeven o'clock this evening in the Truſtees-hall, and to report to the Aſſembly to-morrow.

The report of the truſtees for the widows fund produced, and ordered to lye on the table for the peruſal of the members. The thanks of the Aſſembly given to Dr Webſter, for his care and diligence in the buſineſs of his office.

An appeal of the donors for purchaſing and building the meeting-houſe in Dunfermline, occupied by the late Rev. Mr Gilleſpie, and of the heads of families in the town and pariſh of Dunfermline adhering to them, againſt a ſentence of the ſynod of Fife of the 2d October laſt, affirming a ſentence of the preſbytery of Dunfermline of the 26th of June laſt; as alſo againſt a ſentence of the ſaid preſbytery of the 7th May inſtant, heard. The General Aſſembly proceeded to give judgment on the ſentence of the ſynod of Fife the 2d of October laſt, affirming the ſentence of the preſbytery of Dunfermline on the 26th of June laſt; and after long reaſoning, the General Aſſembly, by a vote, affirmed the ſentences of the ſynod of Fife and preſbytery of Dunfermline appealed from, declaring it to be entire for the General Aſſembly to enter upon the appeal of the donors of the 7th of May inſtant, againſt the preſbytery of Dunfermline's refuſing to take in their petition; and alſo to the petitioners to make any new application to the preſbytery.

Reſolve anent taking in cauſes.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1777. *Seſſ.* 9*th.*

Sederunt.

The committee and the truſtees of the widows fund, of new appointed to meet this evening at eight o'clock in the Truſtees-hall.

Act

Act approving of the account of Mr David Dalrymple procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him and his cautioners of the ſums of L. 65 : 19 : 2 $\frac{2}{3}$, and L. 500 Sterling; and ordering that he debit himſelf in his next account for the ſum of L. 110 : 2 : 1 $\frac{5}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving the accompt of James Edmonſtone agent for the Church, and appointing that he ſhould have credit in his next accompt for the ſum of L. 10 : 13 : 7 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

The report of the committee named to conſider the applications for ſhares of the public money, given in, and read, together with the procurator's opinion thereon. The Aſſembly ranked the following perſons creditors on the public fund, or remitted to the procurator and agent to carry on their ſeveral proceſſes at the public expence, viz.

Mr Alexander Watt miniſter at Forres, his proceſs to be carried on at the public expence.

The preſbytery of Cupar's to be carried on at the public expence.

Mr John Scollay miniſter at St Andrew's and Deerneſs his decreet of modification to be extracted at the public expence.

Mr James Douglas miniſter at Glenbucket, his proceſs to be carried on at the public expence.

Mr James M'Intoſh miniſter at Moy, his proceſs to be carried on at the public expence.

Mr James Dymock miniſter at Aberfoil, his proceſs to be carried on at the public expence; and recommended to Mr George Buchan-Hepburn and Mr Simon Fraſer, advocates, to give Mr Dymock their aſſiſtance in this matter.

Mr Thomas Smith miniſter at Cummertrees, to be refunded out of the public funds of the expence he has already laid out in the proceſs mentioned in his petition, to the extent of L. 30 Sterling, and his proceſs to be finiſhed at the public expence.

Mr David M'Robert miniſter at Neſting, to be ranked on the public fund for the ſum of L. 20 Sterling, to become due to him after the debts that are already contracted on the fund are paid.

The report of the viſitors of the commiſſion-book given in and read, and the commiſſion's conduct approven of:

of: The Aſſembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the commiſſion, for their faithfulneſs and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the commiſſion, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in, and approven of.

The report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty-regiſter, given in and read; the conduct of the managers approven of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

It being repreſented to the Aſſembly, that many preſbyteries in Scotland had neglected to make the collection for the ſupport of the charity ſchools, ordered by the preceding Aſſemblies, the General Aſſembly recommended it to the Society for Propogating Chriſtian Knowledge, to ſend a new copy of the act of Aſſembly appointing this collection to be made, together with a liſt of thoſe that are deficient in making the collection to the Moderator of each preſbytery; and the Aſſembly renews the appointment upon deficient preſbyteries to make this collection betwixt and next Aſſembly: And appointed Mr Alexander Belſhes to bring in, on Monday, an account of the pariſhes who have obeyed ſaid act, and an account of the ſums collected by each pariſh.

Upon a motion, that the act paſſed in the 1763, appointing all collections made by order of the Aſſembly to be reported by the miniſters of the ſeveral pariſhes to the clerks of Aſſembly, ſhould be renewed this year, and printed with the acts of Aſſembly: The motion ordered to lye on the table till Monday.

An appeal of Mr William Taylor miniſter at New-Deer, and of Mr Patrick Duff and others, their adherents, againſt a ſentence of the ſynod of Aberdeen, agreeing to take Mr John Shand Student in Divinity on trials, without writing circular letters to preſbyteries, conform to acts of Aſſembly, heard. The General Aſſembly reverſed the ſentence of the ſynod.

An appeal of John Iſat maltman and brewer in Gorbals, and James Richardſon merchant in Glaſgow, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Glaſgow, and ſynod of of Glaſgow and Ayr, heard. The General Aſſembly affirmed the ſentences of the preſbytery and of the ſynod.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1777. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

The appointment of the Aſſembly in the year 1763, ordering all collections made by any act of Aſſembly, to be reported by the miniſters of the ſeveral pariſhes to the clerks of Aſſembly, ordered to be renewed this year and printed; *vide the printed acts.*

Liſt of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The General Aſſembly ordered peremptorily all the ſynods to ſend up their reſpective books to next Aſſembly, as none had been this year ſent up.

The committee on the Enzie-fund continued with the ſame powers as appointed by former Aſſemblies, and Mr James Robertſon at Ratho added thereto.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the petition from the preſbytery of Perth called for; the Aſſembly referred the ſame to their commiſſion.

A letter from the Secretary of State to the Moderator of this Aſſembly, acknowledging the receipt of the Aſſembly's anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter, was given in and read.

The report of the committee appointed to meet with the truſtees of the fund for miniſters widows, called for; but no meeting having taken place, the General Aſſembly, taking into conſideration the returns from preſbyteries and Univerſities, to the ſix propoſals formerly tranſmitted, reſpecting the ſaid fund,—appointed their committee, named on Friday laſt, with ſome members now added to that committee, to meet with the truſtees; and that ſaid meeting ſhould tranſmit to contributors in preſbyteries and univerſities the foreſaid ſix propoſitions, with ſuch illuſtrations as they ſhall ſee proper; requiring the contributors to return their opinion thereupon on or before the firſt of November next; with certification, that ſuch as ſend no report ſhall be held as conſenting: That the truſtees ſhall lay before the commiſſion in November next, the returns they ſhall then have received from preſbyteries and univerſities; and the ſame powers are veſted in the commiſſion and the truſtees as by the preceding Aſſembly.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the overture reſpecting ſtudents in divinity, and the licenſing of probationers, called for, given in, and read.

read. The General Aſſembly appointed the ſame, as now amended, to be tranſmitted to the ſeveral preſbyteries, that they may return their opinion thereupon to the next General Aſſembly.

The report of the truſtees for managing the fund for a proviſion to miniſters widows, *&c.* containing a ſtate of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings ſince laſt Aſſembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Proteſtation admitted againſt an appeal taken by ſome elders and heads of families in the pariſh of Blackford, anent the ſettlement of that pariſh.

The General Aſſembly reſumed the conſideration of the ſecond appeal from the preſbytery of Dunfermline, of the 7th May laſt. The petition was remitted to the preſbytery, and they ordained to receive the ſame, and attend to the recommendation of laſt General Aſſembly.

The report by Mr Alexander Belſches, containing a liſt of the pariſhes who have contributed to the collection for the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, was called for and given in, and ordered to lye *in retentis*.

The day of the meeting of the ſynod of Fife appointed; *vide the printed acts*.

All cauſes brought before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commiſſion, with powers to them to judge, and finally determine therein.

A committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all the other meetings thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of Aſſembly, as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's ſederunt were read; the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly, and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, and ſinging part of a pſalm.

FINIS.